

Watchman & Journal.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1891.

THE special committee of the house which has been investigating the charges against General Raum, commissioner of pensions, finds them wholly unsupported by the evidence.

SPAIN is in an exceedingly restless state, and one or two republican outbreaks have already occurred. Unless the indications are very deceptive, the country is on the eve of a revolution.

MR. BLAND of Missouri regards the free-coinage bill as smothered by the house committee on coinage. He believes the committee will continue its hearings indefinitely, and will finally refuse to report the bill. This will not be unwelcome news to eastern business men, but such a course is not calculated to please the West very much.

THE New Orleans banks have level-headed managers. In the national house of representatives, Saturday, Mr. Coleman of Louisiana presented resolutions of the representatives of those banks "deprecating the further discussion of the measure known as the free-coinage bill by the United States congress, and requesting the senators and representatives to use their influence to prevent agitation of this question any longer; and that the prolonged discussion of said measure is a standing menace to the growing prosperity of the whole country." This is exceedingly well put.

SIR JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE was reported by a news agency to have expressed himself as pleased with the action of the supreme court of the United States in consenting to hear the application for a writ of prohibition in the Sayward case. It was just such a case of indiscretion as this that caused the recall of Sackville West from Washington to London some two years ago. The impropriety of a diplomatic representative making unofficial comments either on international questions at issue or matters relating to our internal politics is apparent even to one not specially versed in diplomacy, and the sharp criticisms of the English papers on Sir Julian's reported course were undoubtedly justified. But Great Britain's representative has denied the interview point blank, and it will take the testimony of more than one man to disprove his denial. It is not reasonable to suppose that, with the Sackville West incident fresh in his mind, Sir Julian would have been so foolish as to repeat the blunder. Newspaper men have been known to do such things as "faking," and it is under that category that the interview in question probably belongs.

THERE has not been as much said about the nationalists of Boston lately as there was immediately after the appearance of "Looking Backward," but if any one supposed that they had all disappeared he was far from right. Mr. Bellamy, the author of the book, has found solid support for his ideas sufficient to warrant the publication of a weekly paper, called *The New Nation*, the first number of which has the date of the 31st ult. He himself is the editor, and with him is a newspaper man of long experience—Mr. Greene, recently of the *Springfield Republican*. The two will very likely make the paper a first-class, well-managed organ of the nationalists. The first number has many suggestive articles and much interesting news relating to industrial questions. The purpose of the paper is to keep its readers well informed on these subjects. The nationalists just now are aiming to get a bill through the legislature authorizing municipalities to make gas and electricity light if they wish. A year ago such a bill passed the house by a vote of one hundred five to thirty-four, but the senate—which appears to have resembled the average Vermont senate—defeated it. This year the fight has been renewed, with better prospects of success.

A SECOND bad mine disaster—this time eighteen men lost their lives—should call public attention to the necessity of more thorough inspection and control by the government of these great private industries. There is really no excuse for one-quarter of the frightful catastrophes which are continually occurring in the mining states. Take the latest, that at Jeansville, Penn., last week. An unused section had been flooded with water, and the officials of all the mines of the vicinity should and probably did know that the water was there. Yet two miners were allowed to drill away at the very wall between the flooded section and their own. What happened? No sooner had their drill pierced the wall than in spouted the water, and eighteen men, many of whom had families, were drowned. Here was a case of criminal negligence worse than that of ninety-nine out of a hundred cases of railroad accidents. In the latter it usually happens that an unforeseen disarrangement occurs, and either the time for preventing an accident is too short or the responsible person loses his self-possession and does not do the right thing. In this case, however, men who probably knew all about the flooded mine allowed their subordinates to approach their death gradually and certainly.

A Military Post in Vermont.

The *St. Johnsbury Republican* declares with an emphasis that is intended to be conclusive of the whole matter, that "Vermont needs a military post about as much as a frog needs a tail." Well, if the proposition was to locate the military post at St. Johnsbury, very likely a need for a tail to the frog would be discovered—possibly for three tails. The proposed post, we are informed, will require at least 500 acres of Vermont territory—and possibly 1,000—for parade ground, barracks, rifle-range, battery practice, cavalry evolutions, etc. It will involve the expenditure in Vermont of a million dollars ultimately. As to the necessity for a military post on the Vermont frontier: What is there in the way of national defenses along the extended boundary line between Canada and the states? What is there along the hundreds of miles of that line extending toward the east? And what is there on the other side of that line—at Quebec and Montreal? The facts of the existing situation on each side of the line, with the fact of the existence of international disputes and the likelihood that other international questions of grave importance will arise in the future, renders it the part of prudence and wisdom for the United States to extend and strengthen its military arm as well along its inland frontiers as along its sea coast or on the high seas. In matters that are already subjects of controversy, or that may become subjects of contention, the nation's ability to defend itself or to enforce its demands will be quite as potent as the inherent justice of its claim or the force of its discussions.

The United States believes in peace. It believes in arbitration as a means of settling international disputes, but the existence of a competent military and naval force will secure a hearing for its demands for arbitration, or respect for its claims in a court of arbitration. Through the northwestern corner of Vermont enters one of the great arteries of inland commerce, one of the great highways of travel. It leads to the heart of Vermont and there is sound wisdom and wise foresight in the proposition to establish a military post in that region. The intersecting lines of railway at Essex Junction supply important requirements of such a military post. General Schofield and Secretary Proctor understand the strategic advantages of the locality and recommend it. We hope congress will pass the bill establishing a military post at that place.

A Field for Reform.

Recently the *Free Press* sharply criticized a brother publisher for the imperfections in a certain job of state printing. Our contemporary went further and read a lecture to printers on the evil of under-bidding for state work and seeking to recoup themselves by using poor stock and slighting the workmanship. Those familiar with the bidding last fall for important classes of state printing smiled a derisive smile as they read the *Free Press'* homily, and watched patiently to see how beautifully its precept would expand into practice. It was well known that the *Free Press* Association had proposed to print the tax inventories at two cents a thousand less than the lowest market price of the paper the specifications called for. So, if it was honest, it was proposing to make the state a present of two cents a thousand on the paper for some 350,000 inventories, and pay freight, composition and press-work out of its own pocket. It was known, also, that the price at which it proposed to furnish the book-paper for the laws and senate and house journals was less than the lowest market price of the quality of paper required, and that its prices for the mechanical labor were ruinously low. It could save itself from a heavy loss only by cheating the state. The laws, which the specifications required should be out January 15, have at length made their appearance, and one is enabled to judge whether the company has come up to the rack like a man and gone into its own pocket-book for the deficit, or whether it has sought to save itself from loss by defrauding the state. The mechanical work is fair, but the paper used is about the vilest stuff one ever saw in a publication of any kind—a thin, dirty, dingy article, absolutely disgraceful to the publishers and a shame and mortification to the state. The job, in respect to the paper in particular, is a fraud upon the state, and if it is accepted, the competing bidders, who made their prices with reference to an honest fulfillment of the requirements of the specifications, will have just cause for complaint and protest. For this job the commissioners of printing called for book-paper of a certain quality and weight per ream. Now a competitor makes his prices very low to get the work, and then proceeds with a total disregard of the specifications. Aside from the very patent fact that the paper is of an outrageously inferior quality, it is unquestionably several pounds

lighter than the specifications demand. Others who put in bids for this work were playing, not "cut-throat," but a "straight game," and they were "left." The *Free Press* "scooped the pot." It is time that this sort of thing shall have an end. The state has been cheated and defrauded—and disgraced—in this way long enough. Those competitors for state work who have made honest bids and been distanced by fraudulent means insist that the rogues shall be "set back"; that there shall be a new deal, and that effective safeguards against fraudulent contracts or defective fulfillment of contracts, shall be adopted. They suggest further that the commissioners of state printing should employ some judgment and exercise some discretion in the awarding of contracts, for it should have been as clear as a pike-staff to the commissioners that the *Free Press* Association could not—without tremendous loss—carry out its contracts, and did not so intend. The fact that a bid is apparently a few dollars the lowest should not always and under all circumstances be the ground and the sole condition upon which an award is made. The state printing department presents a field ripe for the sickle of reform.

Concerning Patriotism.

There was an echo of the late campaign at the Burlington meeting of the state encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic last week. Governor Page had made some remarks upon the duties of citizenship which are briefly reported in the *Soldiers' Budget* on the third page. Governor Ormsbee seems to have regarded his successor's words as a sort of challenge, and proceeded to fire the hearts of the veterans with some very fervid expressions of his belief that patriotism is not extinct or its ancient ardor very much cooled in this closing decade of the nineteenth century. Governor No. 2 seems to have been watching for an opportunity to "pick up" Governor No. 1, and make him feel that he was only a civilian. Undoubtedly both of their excellencies were right. What Governor Page said is undeniably true, and a Grand Army camp-fire was as good an occasion as any other for the sentiments he expressed. Perhaps it was the best. If good citizens in other decades before the war had displayed the civic patriotism that makes intelligent, independent, conscientious citizens, and voters had systematically performed the supreme act and duty of citizenship, there might have been no civil war, no Grand Army of the Republic—and possibly no Governor Ormsbee. The latter speaker himself illustrated the truth of Governor Page's postulates. Men will go to war, expose themselves to hardships, wounds and death who possibly would have deemed it not worth their while, nor regarded it an act of genuine patriotism, to spend a half-hour in going to the polls. If there should be a call to arms to-day, unquestionably the patriotism whose unabated strength Governor Ormsbee fervidly proclaimed would speedily fill the ranks with thrice the "three hundred thousand more" that answered to "Father Abraham's" summons; and it is equally true that there is a lack of that kind of patriotism that induces a prompt, vigilant and unselfish performance of the primal duties of good citizenship. So both governors were right. Let us have peace.

Reciprocity.

The course of Secretary Blaine in causing a reciprocity clause to be ingrafted into the tariff bill seems to be already vindicated. On Thursday last President Harrison announced in a proclamation that a treaty had been negotiated with Brazil by the provisions of which that country will after April 1 admit, free of all duty, the staple agricultural products of the United States and the general line of iron manufactures, in consideration of a free market in this country for sugar, molasses, coffee and hides from Brazil. A further concession from the Brazilian government is the reduction of twenty-five per cent on the duties now imposed, or to be imposed, on such articles as lard, butter and cheese, canned and preserved meats, fish, manufactures of cotton, manufactures of iron and steel not included in the free schedule, leather and the manufactures from it except boots and shoes, lumber, furniture and articles of rubber. It will thus be seen that the bargain is at least an even one for us. One of the articles which is to be admitted free—coffee—is not produced in this country. It would, therefore, be nonsense to impose any duty on it, except for the purpose of securing concessions. Of hides, sugar and molasses, it is sufficient to say that we do not produce anything like the quantity we need. Sugar and molasses are articles of such common use that it is highly desirable that they be made as cheap as possible. It is probable that the domestic production of sugar, molasses and hides will not be affected by placing them on the Brazilian free list. The only effect of retaining the duty would be to increase the price. In fact, we lose nothing of real value, while we gain a market which, if judiciously cultivated, will yield handsome

returns. This is not free trade. It is an exchange of surplus products, based on an intelligent conception of the needs of each country.

Canada, too, is moving toward reciprocity with this country. Sir John Macdonald has caused consternation in the ranks of the liberals by going to the voters with a plan for limited reciprocity, thus abandoning the conservative policy of high protection. He proposes the appointment of a joint commission which shall consider the renewal of the reciprocity treaty of 1854, with necessary modifications, and a settlement of all questions relating to the North Atlantic fisheries. With this programme he hopes to carry the country against the liberals, who are for unrestricted reciprocity between the two countries. The election will take place in about a month, and as might be supposed, an exciting campaign is now in progress. People on this side of the line will watch the progress of events with much interest. Secretary Blaine assures Sir John that no scheme of partial reciprocity will be acceptable to the United States, yet the Canadian premier is rushing on to what he hopes will be victory. If he can carry the election on his new platform, he will be content. Sir John is an astute politician, and no doubt knows what he is about.

The Eight-Hour Law.

Senator Morrill made the principal speech in the senate on last week Friday on the bill for the adjustment of the accounts of employees of the government arising under the eight-hour law. He said he had the deep conviction that not only was the eight-hour law of 1868 fundamentally wrong, but that the attempted resurrection of it in the pending measure, instead of being beneficial to the class to which it is specially intended to benefit, would inflict upon that class and upon the country at large a grave and possibly an irreparable injury. He referred with approval to the statement of Edward Atkinson, that the eight-hour law would work in the interest of capital and against labor, that it would be pernicious, and would result to the great disadvantage of labor. Some theories, he said, might be scientifically refuted, but unsound political theories often waited for refutation until their operation brought disaster. The settlement of the claims against the government under the eight-hour law from 1868 to 1891 would cost millions, the estimate of Secretary Whitney, for the navy department alone, having been some years since \$3,000,000. The pending measure was not asked for or prompted, so far as he knew, by the best workmen or by those longest in the public service. These were content with steady employment, with wages promptly paid and that were not less than the maximum wages paid throughout the country for equal skill and service. The United States government should not set an example of prodigality where no state, city or town could afford to follow. If the bill became a law it would insure the removal and change of all day laborers and mechanics in the service of the government at every change of the national administration. The civil service law would not protect them, and members of congress would be instrumentalities of their removal. The hours of labor in foreign countries were from ten to twelve hours, and yet it was the immigrants from these countries who were the chief agitators for an eight-hour law, although many of them were receiving double as much wages as they had received in their own countries. Freeborn Americans were not hungering for an eight-hour day of labor. What they wanted was more work and more pay. The eight-hour scheme, if generally adopted, would separate the larger half of the working-men of the country from the smaller half, which was employed mainly in large workshops and factories, while those owning farms or working thereon would still work ten, twelve and often more hours a day. With a gateway leading to less work and more pay, the pressure for employment in favored trades could only be restricted by the exclusion of all new men and apprentices. Those trades would combine and become a close corporation, with no new subscribers; and farmers would object to the building up of a favored class, either by national or state governments, at their expense. With an eight-hour law American markets would be opened to the products of foreign countries, and the exports of eight-hour-products would be necessarily impossible. Any general law or inflexible rule on the subject would usurp the place of free will and of personal independence. If any motion were made to postpone the bill till the 6th of next March, he would feel bound to vote for such motion.

Ingalls, the Brilliant.

Charles S. Gleed of Topeka, Kansas, has in the *Kansas City Star* a pen portrait and a character study of Senator Ingalls that deserves to place its author beside Henry W. Grady in the brilliancy of its language and in the clean-cut way in which the Kansan's picture stands out, cameo-like, from its splendid setting. A few excerpts are given below, and the *WATCHMAN* only regrets that it has no space for the whole fine brilliant columns. Of Mr. Ingalls, Mr. Gleed says:

His voice is a polished ramrod of sound, without fur or feathers, traversing space as swiftly as light, without a whirr or a flutter, as if shot by an explosive of inconceivable power. But all his quickness has an automatic character which should be distinguished from the quickness of men who rise to meet emergencies without rising to them, or not at all. He works like the lock of a money vault—when the rings and slots are in proper conjunction, something drops just right. Until that conjunction is reached nothing happens, except profanity on the part of the manipulator. He is an oratorical word-artist. He can be an animated stiletto or an infuriated hedgehog; a cooling

dove or an Aeolian harp. His words whizz from his lips like hornets disturbed, or flutter off like rose leaves kissed loose by summer breezes. They issue on cruelly bent, like the red ants of darkest Africa, torturing where they touch; or they come like drops of honey filtered through lilies. Fertile, felicitous, felinorous, he is altogether mephistophelian. He goes about among his fellows as in a dime museum looking at the freaks and oddities, and pointing them out with his bayonet-like finger. His face is his fortune, it may be, and yet he goes back on it when he says it is the only one in the United States to which a caricature does no injustice. His presence of mind is the presence of a regiment of soldiers armed with mitrailleuse. His compassions is a cat's, his tenacity a bull-dog's, and he has the good nature of the billy goat, which knocks over the boys for fun. Mr. Ingalls is almost exclusively a critic, and hence I say he is an ex-officio statesman. His office and his nature are divergent. He cares as much about party platforms as a cannibal chief about the Nicene creed.

In such matters he is neither hampered by conscience nor hindered by conviction. Ingalls may be a puzzle, but he is not a fraud. A fraud is one who pretends to be what he is not. Ingalls only pretends to be Ingalls. For instance, he is not a churchman. In fact he is impious. He takes no stock in religious stock companies. He scoffs, and talks agnosticism, and is profane, and in such ways arrogates to himself a large badness. When asked by a newspaper syndicate man if a politician could be a good Christian, his answer came quickly: "All things are possible with God." When his house burned he congratulated his neighbors on saving the well. He got on dangerous ground when he remarked of prohibition in Kansas that it worked to a charm, because temperance people had their prohibition and drinkers had their whiskey. Mr. Ingalls' personal appearance is remarkable. His height is over six feet and his weight perhaps one hundred forty pounds. He is as gracefully straight as a sunflower stalk, and as conspicuous among men as a sunflower among dandelions. His hair is silvery, stiff, disheveled. He looks old, yet is strong and lusty, having never in youth "applied hot and rebellious liquors to his blood." His head is high behind and deep from forehead to back, giving the impression of great length from the chin upward and backward. Before his forehead of wire-silver is a face dark and angular, suggesting Spanish blood, and his audacious moustache and the impudent tuft on his under lip do not belie the suggestion. His eyes may be "red, white and blue," like his neck, for all anybody knows. They are hidden behind the most brilliant eyeglasses that ever disconcerted an interlocutor. His hands are bony, and when his long-jointed fingers twine about his pen the only result to be expected is the extraordinarily beautiful manuscript which he always turns out.

The Richmond Fire.

The fire at Richmond last week Tuesday afternoon, to which brief reference was made in last week's issue, caused a total loss of about \$35,000. It was a severe blow to the place, as nearly the whole of the business part of the village was destroyed. The fire made the lack of fire apparatus painfully evident. The assistance of firemen from Waterbury and Burlington prevented further spread of the flames. The Waterbury company arrived soon after five o'clock, but owing to the condition of the hose it did not get to work until nearly six, at which time the Burlington engine and firemen had arrived and got to work. Water was at first pumped from a sluiceway beside the railroad track, and when the supply gave out a hole was cut in the school-house pond. The fire raged until four o'clock in the store of J. B. Norton & Co., dealers in hardware and oils. Mr. Norton and a man were in the cellar drawing some kerosene oil. Returning to the first floor, they found the flames, and a hurried exit by a back door became necessary. The fire had got so good a start that none of the books of the firm, except the day-book, could be secured. This was done by breaking in one of the windows. From the Norton store the flames spread to the store of F. W. Powers, dealer in boots and shoes, in the same block. Next came J. W. Whitcomb's grocery store and apartments in which he lived. The Masonic block was completely destroyed. In this were the stores of E. W. Freeman, dealer in drugs and jewelry, Solomon Green, grocer, and Fay G. Nichols, clothing dealer. The office of Dr. C. W. Jacobs, in this block, was also burned out. The North Star lodge of Masons saved a portion of its furniture. Next in the path of the fire was the building occupied by Patrick Henley's shoe-shop, Miss Gleason's millinery store and the Grand Army post. Nothing was saved from the Grand Army hall. The hotel and barn of Joe Barber were the next victims, but some furniture was taken from the house. The extent of the fire can be summed up by saying that the burned property included the large Masonic block, corner of Bridge and Front streets, made up of three stores and a physician's office; two blocks on Bridge street containing three stores and tenements, a single block and a dwelling on Front street. Some smaller buildings, also, as barns and sheds, were burned, and several houses were scorched. In Mr. Norton's barn were several kegs of powder, which might have been removed before the fire reached them, but no one seemed to think of them. Mr. Norton's family had barely time to get out of the burning building. His four-year-old boy fainted away on reaching the open air. The safe of the firm of Norton & Co. was pulled out of the ruins Tuesday evening. It had fallen face down, and although the safe was open, little damage was done to the books. The cause of the fire is uncertain, some saying that it originated from an explosion of gas in a coal stove, and others attributing it to spontaneous combustion.

The losses and insurance were as follows: Norton & Co., stock \$6,500; insured for \$4,500 in the Continental, New York, Phoenix, London and Orient, Stock, \$3,500; insured for \$2,500 in the Insurance Company of North America, New York. Gleason, stock, \$2,200; insured for \$1,800. J. W. Whitcomb, building, \$2,500; insured for \$1,100 in the Niagara and Phoenix of London. North Star lodge, building, \$5,000; insured for \$3,000 in the Phoenix of Hartford and Phoenix of London. Furniture, nearly all saved; insured for \$500. Fay G. Nichols, stock, \$5,000, partly saved; insured for \$3,500 in the Orient, Liberty and Niagara. E. W. Freeman, stock, \$3,500; insured for \$2,000 in the Insurance Company of North America. Solomon Green, stock, \$1,500, saved in damaged condition; no insurance. Patrick Henley, building, \$1,500; insured for \$800 in the Vermont Mutual. Stock also damaged. Miss Gleason, stock, \$1,000, partly saved; no insurance. Grand Army post, furniture, \$400; no insurance. Joe Barber, house and furniture, \$1,500; insured for \$1,200 in the Vermont Mutual. Two hundred dollars will pay for the damage to houses on the south side of Bridge street. The total insurance amounted to about \$30,000.

From Town Correspondents.

Barre.

A small building is being erected next to the old skating rink. It will be used as a fruit and confectionery store.

George P. Badger, teller of the Granite Savings Bank, and Miss Mabel G. Griswold were married Saturday evening by Rev. W. S. Smithers.

The officers of the Good Templar lodge were installed on Saturday evening, and six new members were initiated. The meetings will be held hereafter in the Methodist vestry.

The "gentlemen's supper" in the vestry of the Universalist church, Saturday evening, was a great success. Between 400 and 500 persons were present, and about \$90 was made. After the supper there were exercises in the church, conducted by the ladies. The number of toasts were responded to.

Grand Master Horton of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows came from Poultney on last week Thursday to visit Hallowatha lodge in the evening. During his stay here he was entertained by George W. Tilden, noble grand of the lodge. Mr. Horton says that Hallowatha lodge ranks third in the state as to the number of new members initiated in 1890, which was twenty-seven.

The sharpshooters' union has made a request for more pay after May 1. At present the sharpshooters receive \$2.00 per day for sharpening for thirteen men. This is at the rate of twenty-nine and one-half cents per hour, the working day being nine hours long. The increase asked is about a cent an hour, or \$2.75 per day. The request was made to the individual manufacturers, but it is said that the agreement was that the manufacturers' association should represent the individual members. No action on the request has as yet been taken either by the individual manufacturers or the association.

A lively fight occurred on East hill, near the house of Allen Bates, about half-past four o'clock Monday afternoon. Michael Valleley and wife were riding in a sleigh, when they met John Jondrow, who was driving a load of hay. The two men got into a dispute about passing each other, and a fight followed. Jondrow used a pitchfork, and he claims that Valleley attempted to cut him with a knife. What the exact case was will probably not appear until the trial takes place, but Jondrow seems to have used Valleley pretty roughly, cutting his nose and lip, knocking a tooth out, and bruising him in other respects. Valleley at once caused the arrest of Jondrow, and the latter had a warrant sworn out against Valleley for drunkenness. An effort was made to try the case yesterday morning, but Valleley's condition did not permit him to appear.

GODDARD SEMINARY.

Charles H. Hobbs has gone to Boston to work.

Marie H. Couillard died on last week Wednesday night, after a severe illness of several years. The funeral was on Friday afternoon.

Nearly all the students enjoyed the fine coasting on Seminary Hill last Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. LeBaron of North Hatley, P. Q., has been visiting Miss Nellie LeBaron, her daughter.

Addie R. Moore, who had been visiting her sister, Mrs. L. C. Cady, since Christmas, returned to her home at Ashland, N. H., on Thursday.

It is with much regret that the members of the Spencer Ladies learn that Captain B. H. Wells has tendered his resignation to the government.

Last Wednesday being the occasion of the celebration of the birthday of Miss L. M. Kendall, her pupils presented her with a large box of beautiful cut flowers tastefully arranged.

Through the kindness of W. W. Lapoint, '90, the reading-room is now supplied with the *Judge*, and the *Star*, and the *Grand Army* monthly of which Mr. Lapoint is editor and publisher.

Mrs. James Albin died on Saturday morning of typhoid fever at the age of thirty-two years. The funeral service occurred on Monday morning, and the remains were then taken to Washington.

Rev. E. W. Cummings is to give the address at the next union temperance meeting at the opera house on the evening of Sunday, the 23d instant. His subject will be "Prohibition does not prohibit; what are we going to do about it?"

The out-of-door gymnasium is completed, and it will be ready for use in a few days. Misses Atcheson, Wilson and Marshall, and Messrs. Hollister, Dunham, Shipman and Whitney have been appointed as a committee to solicit funds and to purchase the outfit equipments for a first-class gymnasium.

A lecture was held as usual last Friday evening, and an interesting programme was carried out, the question for debate being, "Resolved, that the free coinage of silver would prove detrimental to the interests of this country." Most of the Berkeley and Lynde appeared for the affirmative and Messrs. Wilson and E. White for the negative. The question was decided in favor of the affirmative by both the board of decision and the audience.

Considerable excitement, with a touch of rivalry, was manifested at the meeting for the election of base-ball officers last Thursday afternoon. The majority, however, selected O. R. Hollister as manager and treasurer, Bert D. George as captain, and A. H. Riley as secretary, treasurer and collector. It is hoped that a strong nine will be put on the diamond next spring and that it will receive the support of the entire community.

Through the efforts of the students and members of the faculty, meetings of the Christian Endeavor Society are now held in the parlors every Sunday afternoon in which the students take an active part. Last Sunday afternoon the services were led by W. R. Dunham, and many valuable hints were given. Most of the Berkeley and Lynde attended. The next meeting is to be led by Miss Minnie Marshall, the subject being "What is Christian Endeavor?" The students seem to take a lively interest in these meetings.

Owing to the large number in the senior class, it has been decided to take two evenings for the reading of the winter essays. Those selected for the first division were read last Thursday evening in the upper chapel before a large and appreciative audience of students and friends of the school. Musical selections were also rendered by the members of the senior class in the musical department. The essays were well delivered and showed original thought and talent on a variety of subjects. The remaining essays will be read next Friday evening, and all interested in the school work are invited to be present.

Barnard.

Throat and lung troubles have been very prevalent late.

The Universalist Mite Society meets with Mrs. Horace Eastman on Friday afternoon and evening of this week.

There will be a farmers' meeting at the town hall Saturday evening of this week. The committee has not yet announced the programme, but say that it will be an interesting one.

One of the most important questions that will come before town meeting is whether the town will vote a labor tax to be worked under the supervision of highway surveyors, or will continue the present system of direct supervision by the selectmen. The former method should be adopted, it would be necessary for the road machine to be used in town by the several highway districts, a course which many believe would be decidedly impracticable.

Florus White has secured a situation in Gardiner, Mass., and will leave for that place on Saturday. Mrs. Edie White and son are stopping for a few weeks in Boston. Mrs. Rodney Chamberlain, an old lady living in the west part of the town, died last week. Stephen Nott has been dan-